

SUGAR AND PLANTATION NEWS

SUGAR CONTINUES TO PILE UP FAST

Shipments For Month Better Than Hoped But Still Far Below Needs of Islands

Sugar shipments for May have been larger than were expected early in the month but have by no means kept pace with the output of the mills in the Islands. It may be conservatively estimated that when the next statement of sugar on hand awaiting shipment is received by the shipping board, which will very likely be next week, it will be found that more than 125,000 tons of sugar are awaiting shipment.

During the present month there have been, or will have been, moved between 45,000 and 50,000 tons of sugar. Meantime the output of the Islands is some where about 80,000 to 90,000 tons a month. In April the Sugar Factors output was more than 60,000 tons, to which must be added the independent output of the 27,000 tons that were on hand at the first of this month there will have to be added the difference in production over shipments.

Plantations are now taking care of their own troubles in accumulated sugar. Plans are announced which will give an added storage capacity of 10,000 tons in Honolulu but that will not commence to meet requirements.

Conditions are shown to some extent by reports of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company which are beginning to include a new item, "Sugar at Mill." In the report published on Sunday morning this is mentioned in two instances. The total figures for the Big Island in that report were 348,575.

Next month conditions are expected to be worse rather than better because of the expected large increases in shipments of canned pineapples, which will come some time ago, that since canned pineapples are an army and navy ration and hence a war essential, they are to be moved fifty-fifty with sugar. Of course there is always the hope and some possibility of unexpected arrivals of vessels sent by the shipping board which may help to expedite movements of the two commodities. Without these the sugar on hand by July 1 will not be far from 125,000 tons or about a third of the needs.

PORTO RICO GETS NEEDED SHIPPING

SAN JUAN, P. R., May 4.—The protests made to Washington by sugar producers and shipping men of Porto Rico appear to have produced results. Not only have assurances been received that the practice of sending ships which bring cargoes to Porto Rico elsewhere to load for the return trip, instead of permitting them to take on sugar here, will be discontinued, but it is now announced that additional shipping space is to be provided to move the island's crop.

Amount Not Determined

How much additional tonnage will be obtained has not been made known, and probably cannot be definitely determined at this time, but producers are anticipating a considerable more rapid movement of stocks during the next few months. A committee has been appointed to cooperate with Federal Food Administrator A. E. Lee, representing the joint committee on West Indies Transportation in allotting whatever additional cargo space may be made available.

Weather conditions throughout the Island recently have not tended to improve the condition of the cane, and indications that the crop will fall short of the best estimates are growing stronger. It is too early, however, to determine the extent of the falling off.

Reports from Santa Domingo indicate that the crop there will likewise be materially reduced, as a result of the extreme dry weather which has prevailed. Central in the Maricao district are reported to be already suffering their crops. About 100,000 tons of cane in three of the districts, being chiefly in columns of Cienfuegos, Anguila and Pinar del Rio, was recently destroyed by a fire of unknown origin. Only a small portion of the cane could be got to the mills and ground in time to save it.

PHILIPPINE SEEDLINGS PROMISE HEAVY YIELDS

The observations on Philippine seedling cane varieties initiated by the Bureau of Agriculture of the Islands has been continued during the past year and it has been observed that many of these varieties, which are now nearly two years old, offer every assurance of being heavy yielders of cane, writes Chas. W. Hines, sugar technologist of the bureau. Some of these varieties have extremely long internodes, which is characteristic in their favor. Analytical testing of these varieties started during the latter part of November and will be continued until the supply of each variety is exhausted. The type of this cane, when it is out for the analytical tests, are immediately replanted, in this manner it is possible to conduct the work with a very limited supply of cane. The seedling varieties from the past year have made a most excellent growth since being transplanted from the bamboo tubes.

Planters Must Now Take What Washington Offers

Suggestions For Land Legislation Will Presumably Come From Secretary Lane and Not From Legislature As Has Been Sought

Hawaiian sugar planters are at length faced with a situation which they cannot but have seen approaching for a long time past, the loss of one seventh of their cane growing acreage through homesteading. Their efforts to secure legislation which will enable the keeping up of sugar production as is desired in these war times appears to have failed at this special session of the legislature. Their proposed legislative measures, designed to keep up production lands on which leases have expired, have gone by the board. Now the situation seems to hinge largely upon the outcome of the vote of Secretary of Interior Lane and it is apparent that already there will be a decreased acreage of sugar another year. Unless something is done, an arrangement made between planters and homesteaders or unless the homestead law be repealed or made inoperative during the period of the war, further shrinkings in acreage appear inevitable.

There is an old saying "Never cross the river until you get to it," on which the planters and the government appear to have been acting. It may be a good maxim but the army which does not make arrangements to cross the river before it advances to the bank of the stream does not get very far.

The sugar planters have reached the river and at this session of the legislature sought to throw across a pontoon bridge. The current has been too strong, they find their pontoons swept away and they are on the hither side of the stream with the green cane fields on the other.

There are about 223,000 acres under cultivation in cane in these Islands and as it takes more than twenty-one months to produce a crop, this makes about 141,500 acres producing annually. About one acre in every seven is government land which has been cultivated under lease.

Planters Urge Case

It is urged by the planters that the measure which failed in the house was the best measure ever offered to the homesteaders. It is said that if he planted his land in cane he would have to wait two years for a return so that the use of his homesteaded lands for two years with the profits going to the government and to the planters left him no worse off than if he planted himself. It appears to be overlooked that when that two years expire he would still have to wait for at least another crop before he could realize on his homestead and meantime have to live off something other than his lands.

So far as the government was concerned it was securing far and away a big end of the bargain for it would receive approximately \$3 a ton for sugar and as the average yield in the Islands is between four and five tons, the government would have received in license fees from \$20 to \$25 an acre far higher, many times as much, as it has received under the old leasing plan. Costs Compared

It is pointed out that there was under cultivation for cane in 1914 1,340,000 acres which would grow one crop a year, where irrigation is unnecessary and fertilizer is hardly needed. At that time rentals in Hawaii were six times as high as in Cuba, \$1.64 as against twenty-eight cents. Besides this cultivation in Hawaii cost five times as much as in Cuba, fertilization costs \$20 and will now cost double and irrigation cost \$67 while it will now be higher because of added cost of fuel.

The fact remains that the planters and the territorial government have been distinctly antagonistic to homesteading and to homesteaders. At the same time the law has been on the statute books. Many ago it was plain that Waianae would lose several thousand acres, more than 6000 unless steps were taken to meet the situation. The planters and the territorial government did not take those steps.

Object To Lien

The lien which was provided upon the lands to be homesteaded gave to the planters a whip hand over the homesteaders which the latter would not be expected to bow under. The house members could not see that every thing was handed to the homesteader on a silver platter.

Whatever the excuses for a continuance of a leasing policy have been in the past, the planters had a good excuse for seeking for action now. The need of keeping up sugar production is great and is admitted. But it is the past that lost for them their cane. They have opposed homesteading here before and with a weapon such as the lien provision in their hands, their further and future course was not trusted.

Secretary Lane is expected to lose even the land situation thoroughly. Whatever legislation the legislature passed would have to have been approved by Congress. Instead of the Territory itself, the much the legislature, suggesting the legislation deemed required for the cane will now probably come from the secretary of interior.

Factors in sugar production on Oahu. This picture was snapped when the five were on an automobile trip together. Reading from left to right are Robert A. McKeague, head overseer of Honolulu Plantation; Edward K. Bull, manager of Oahu Sugar Company; George F. Renton, manager of Ewa Plantation; James Gibb, manager of Honolulu Plantation, and Edward Worthington, head luna of Oahu Sugar Company.



LABOR ASKS REMOVAL OF GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO

WASHINGTON, May 9.—The removal of Arthur Yager as Governor of Porto Rico was asked of President Wilson today by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

This development is an afterthought of the controversy that has arisen during the present crop season between organized labor and employers as to existing labor conditions in the Porto Rican sugar industry. Charges against the Governor, Mr. Gompers, in his letter to the President, charged the Governor with incompetence in handling the labor situation on the island, and declared he had refused to all in bettering living conditions of the workers there.

The demand for the Governor's removal followed closely the appearance of Santiago Iglesias, union labor leader in Porto Rico, and F. C. Roberts, special agent of the Department of Labor before the United States Labor Policy Board. No attempt was made by the producers to give their side of the case at this hearing, as they contend that no labor dispute exists, and that such discontent to be reported is due entirely to the activity of the union labor agents in an endeavor to bring about a disruption in the harmonious relations now existing between the workers and employers.

Discontent Exaggerated The home of contention between the American Federation of Labor and the Porto Rican producers is reported here today to be the refusal of the latter to attend an all general labor conference. The producers point out that, while there have been strikes at Fajardo, Barceloneta and two or three other points, there has been no general strike movement throughout the island and no widespread discontent. Laborers in the field and factories were voluntarily given an increase of pay at the beginning of the season and outside of the reports emanating from union labor sources no advice have been received from the island indicating that the laborers were not satisfied with both their wages and general working conditions.

Governor Yager, who is a Democrat, was appointed from Kentucky by President Wilson in 1914 for a four year term, which has expired. Congress, however, extended this term until a successor should be appointed. No indication is obtainable as to what action the President will take on Mr. Gompers' request. It is not likely, though, that he will take any steps in the matter until the United States Labor Policy Board makes its report, which cannot be completed until the sugar producers have their day in court. It is also pointed out that Governor Yager is set to be heard from and that his reply to the charges probably will sharply contradict the union labor contentions. His answer is expected to be that the demands made by Señor Iglesias and his associates are unreasonable and unwarranted at this time.

Those familiar with labor conditions in Porto Rico state that they are gradually being bettered and are not so unsatisfactory as painted by the labor leaders. An example of the progress being made is the plan being inaugurated by the Fajardo Sugar Company of forming a labor council of its employees, representatives of whom will meet with the company's officials and discuss and settle labor problems at the round table discussion adopted by the Standard Oil Company, which has been favorably commented upon in labor circles.

In addition to the labor council plan, the Fajardo Company is to spend approximately \$250,000 in housing its laborers, increasing its hospital facilities and insurance provisions, and generally widening the scope of its welfare work. It is believed here that the labor council plan will be taken up shortly by other American companies operating in Porto Rico and ultimately by the Spanish owned companies.

HAWAIIAN REFINED SUGAR SHIPPED TO COAST

When the Macon left this week it took 6500 tons of raw sugar and about a thousand tons of refined. With so much raw awaiting shipment and the Eastern refineries clamoring for more raws this would appear odd but it can be accounted for by the saving which Hawaii is voluntarily making in the use of refined sugar. Many people in the Islands who formerly used refined sugar are now using washed sugar in order to reduce the home consumption on refined. At the same time they are effecting some saving by the plan. Hawaii does not manufacture finished refined sugar with only one refinery operating. Last year there were considerable exports at times and later there were imports to make up for them. It was said that this was made possible to carry on profitably by reason of the fluctuating prices which would not occur in this year since a stable price had been fixed by the sugar companies but there appears to be a demand for the Hawaiian refined, under the law, and evidently to meet the demand it is being shipped.

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MOBILIZATION MAY AFFECT FIELD WORK

Planters Confident Government Will Do All Possible To Avoid Hardship

Hawaii awaits news of the mobilization of the guard and of the draft of which announcement has been made that it may come at any time. The sugar industry is not interested so much in the draft as in the mobilization of the guard since under the draft plantation workers have been given a deferred classification.

With the mobilization of the guard it is different. The expectation is that the first regiment will be first mobilized. If that is done there is a battalion that has been raised in the plantations of this island. They would be called out and the labor situation will be that much affected. When the other militia is mobilized the other islands will be even more affected.

It is suggested that after mobilization and a time of training the plantation workers who are mobilized into the guard will be given furloughs and permitted to return to work in the cane fields—the same as it is proposed to permit men in training on the mainland to return to the farms from which they came and to assist in the harvesting of the crops.

Beyond doubt when draft and mobilization comes the sugar industry will feel the effect of it and will have to adjust itself to conditions. Little fear is expressed by the planters and there is a serene confidence that the government will see that the sugar industry does not suffer unnecessarily. Nevertheless the sugar growers would like to know just what arrangements are to be made.

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REMAINDER OF CROP IS TAKEN FROM CUBA

Last Quarter of Production Secured For Allies

Purchase of the remaining quarter of the Cuban sugar crop by the Inter-Allied sugar commission is reported by Associated Press dispatches from Havana which were received yesterday. These dispatches did not mention the price which is to be paid but it is assumed that it is the same as the present price or some mention of the change would have been made. If such is the case it effectively sets at rest rumors of an impending increase in price.

Taking of the other quarter of the crop gives to the Allies practically the entire crop. Mexico has clamored for sugar and has received small quantities but only such as could be transported in small sailing vessels. Securing of this sugar and avoidance of competition among the Allies for its purchase has stabilized prices among those countries. The price for refined sugar, including imports, on May 1, was New York 7.30; Montreal, 8.07; London, 12.50; Paris, 12.28, with a probable increase coming, and Rome, 26.5 cents.

CAPACITY INCREASED

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana, May 6.—Extensive improvements are being made in the various units of the large sugar and molasses plant of Perrier and Ford at Harvey, opposite New Orleans. Cement floors and tile walls are being put in in many of the departments, and recreation rooms are being equipped for the employees. The co-operative plant warehouse is being enlarged and that of the tin can plant is being increased.

ASSISTANT NAMED

WASHINGTON, May 6.—Professor G. I. Christie, Director of Agricultural Extension in Indiana, has been appointed an assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture. He will direct the activities of the department in connection with the farm labor problem, under the immediate supervision of Assistant Secretary Ousley.

Increased Freight Rates May Hit Planters Hard

Question of Where Product Is To Be Refined Grows More Important To Industry With Further Rate Boosts Ordered By McAdoo

Twenty-five percent further additions to transcontinental freight rates will mean a big loss to Hawaiian shippers if their output is to go to the East in anything like the usual quantities. Just what will be done relative to shipments from here still remains in an unsettled condition.

So far the only advice which local shippers have as to where their product is to be refined is the bare statement that the Pacific Coast refineries are to handle all that they can. Up to May 4, the East had received only 14,500 tons and if it were to receive its usual proportion of the crop there would have to be moved overland about a hundred thousand tons more. On this the freight would be more than two and a half million dollars.

It is hardly probable that anything like the usual percentage of Eastern sugar will be shipped this year. Where congestion is less acute there may be shipments made. The only relief for the local planters under the circumstances would be to have practically all of the Hawaiian crop refined in the Pacific Coast States and Western Canada.

W. S. S.

Cuban Planters Are Independent In Their Attitude

May Not Require Large Loans Offered in New York For Lower Rates Are Obtainable and Competition Has Arisen

NEW YORK, May 12.—An announcement was made by the Guaranty Trust Company of this city during the week on behalf of the syndicate formed by American bankers to finance the Cuban sugar producers during the present crop season, that a call had been issued to subscribers of the \$100,000,000 loan fund for payments totaling \$10,000,000, Facts About Sugar reports.

First Call on Loan Fund Shortly after the syndicate was formed it was believed that this amount of money would be required to cover April advances, but it is now apparent that it has not been needed and this money is expected in banking circles that another call for an additional \$5,000,000 will be issued next week.

It is understood from reliable sources that the first \$10,000,000 has been borrowed by large New York interests operating sugar properties. Cuban planters not having New York connections have not sought any financial assistance from the syndicate up to date. The reason for this is that the planters are regarded in sugar circles as due to the interest charges, totalling 8 1/2 percent per annum, attaching to funds borrowed from the American syndicate.

Charges Considered Too High These charges the Cuban planters regard as too high, especially in view of the fact that money at a lower rate of interest is obtainable in other quarters in sufficient amount to meet their present needs. One of these latter sources has been the Cuban Sugar Syndicate Corporation, with an office in Havana. This syndicate, it is announced, offers to loan the planters a total of \$50,000,000, at a rate not exceeding six percent.

In face of this competition, in addition to the planters' financial distress, it is probable that out of the \$100,000,000 and more subscribed to the loan, the maximum amount which will be called for will not reach \$25,000,000 and very likely will not exceed \$20,000,000.

MUST CONSERVE SUGAR USED IN MEDICINES

WASHINGTON, May 6.—A statement relative to proposals for the conservation of sugar in medicine and in the pharmaceutical trade has been issued by Dr. Franklin Martin, chairman of the general medical board of the Council of National Defense. The report states that at a recent meeting of the board and of other governmental authorities interested in the availability and the necessity of conservation measures were discussed from the standpoint of medicinal needs. It was decided that, in view of the importance of sugar in the manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations and the relatively small amount consumed for this purpose, it was not advisable to commend action at this time.

The amount of sugar used annually in the United States in the manufacture of proprietary medicines and pharmaceutical preparations was recently estimated by the Sugar Division of the Food Administration at 12,225 tons.

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CONDITIONS GROW BETTER IN GOTHAM

Eastern Market Gets Supplies That Come Close To Meeting Demands For Time

NEW YORK CITY, May 10.—The purchase of raw sugar arranged for by the international sugar committee for the week under review was slightly larger than in the preceding week, amounting to a total of approximately 65,000 long tons of Cuban sugar for May shipment, 20,000 tons of Porto Rico and approximately 3,500 tons of San Domingos sugar, the latter consigned to Canadian refiners, says Facts About Sugar in its issue of May 11.

The total purchases of Cuban sugar for May shipment are now in excess of 125,000 tons or close to one-half of the tonnage which it is expected the committee will arrange for to cover May purchases. It is expected by the trade that the volume of sugar to be arranged in the week to come, and that the total purchases of Cuban sugar for May will pass the 300,000 ton mark, the consensus of opinion being that they will be close to 320,000 tons.

The shipping situation continues to be most favorable, and a steady volume of raws from both Cuba and Porto Rico is now coming weekly to this market without interruption. Arrivals during the present week have been again heavy and have enabled the refiners to increase their millings by a considerable margin. It is now apparent to the trade that so far as the West Indies transportation situation is concerned the outlook is exceedingly bright for the balance of this month and for June. It is further intimated from authoritative sources that adequate shipping facilities to move better than 300,000 tons of raws per month to Eastern and Southern refining points will be provided by the Shipping Board for a considerable further period, at least long enough to safeguard the sugar supply of the country for the year.

General Improvement A continued improvement in the general sugar situation is again reflected in the statistics issued by the International Sugar Committee covering refining operations for the week ending May 4. These figures show that the millings of the entire country for this week total 97,994 tons as compared with 79,391 tons for the previous week. Millings at Eastern ports were 64,330 tons, an increase of 2,883 tons over the preceding week. Millings at Southern ports amounted to 12,748 tons or 52 1/2 percent of the total for the week.

On the Pacific Coast, millings showed an increase of over 50 percent compared with previous week and amounted to 10,916 tons. Receipts of raws for this week for the entire country showed a decrease of 18,075 tons, due largely to a falling off of receipts at Eastern ports from the heavy arrivals of the week ending May 4. The total receipts for the week at all refining points were 71,860 tons. Total Eastern and Southern receipts amounted to 71,388 tons, this latter figure showing a decrease as compared with 78,216 tons for the week ending April 27.

Raw stocks on hand for this week showed a decrease for the first time in several weeks, and now amount to 92,583 tons as compared with 105,672 tons for the preceding week and 92,128 tons for the week ending April 29. Total millings of all refiners for 1918 to May 4 are given as 1,110,310 tons and total receipts of raws for the same period as 1,196,228 tons.

Cuba Conditions

Advices from Cuba for the week show a falling off in receipts compared with the previous week, and clearly indicate, as was pointed out on the sugar market, that the maximum weekly rate of production for this season has been reached, and that a steady decline in the volume of receipts may be expected from now till the end of the harvest. The shortage of labor in Cuba is becoming more acute and is adversely affecting the output. The opinion prevails in some quarters that there is very little likelihood of the 1918 crop exceeding 3,000,000 long tons, and this revised estimate is receiving considerable confirmation from Cuban sources. With the rainy season near at hand, and the Cuban planters disinclined to attain a maximum production, with storage facilities a doubtful factor, it is clearly apparent that there is little hope of the final output much exceeding the low estimate above mentioned.

WOMEN ARE WANTED TO AWARD PENSIONS

LONDON, May 10.—(Associated Press)—Young women "of good education and high purpose" are urged in an appeal by the British minister of pensions to volunteer in the work of awarding pensions to disabled soldiers from the battlefields in France.

SUGAR LOST AT SEA

Advices have been received from New York of the foundering at sea on April 28 of the schooner Percy Jones, en route from Santiago de Cuba to New York with 3500 bags of raw sugar.

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